

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON ITALIAN FLOAT GLASS

1. EC DELEGATION ECONOMIC COUNSELOR LENG AND ITALIAN
EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR SERAFINI CALLED ON RPE
DIRECTOR PREEG JANUARY 14 TO DELIVER A NOTE FROM THE
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DELEGATION URGING THE US GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS

DECISION TO LEVY COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON ITALIAN FLOAT GLASS. (TEXT OF NOTE IS CONTAINED IN EC BRUSSELS CABLE)

2. IN ORAL PRESENTATION, LENG AND SERAFINI WENT OVER POINTS MADE IN NOTE. IN ADDITION SERAFINI EMPHASIZED THAT US DECISION CAUSED A POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR ITALIAN GOVERNMENT; PROGRAM OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO MEZZOGIORNO WAS ONE OF CORNERSTONES OF GOI POLICY. HE INDICATED THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO PRESENT A NOTE PROTESTING US DECISION. IN RESPONSE, PREEG EMPHASIZED THAT THE US DECISION WAS BASED ON THE LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION, THAT US TREASURY HAD MADE EXHAUSTIVE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION, THAT THERE WAS NO POLITICAL MOTIVATION BEHIND TREASURY'S DECISION AND THAT THE DECISION DID NOT INDICATE ANY GENERAL MOVE AGAINST REGIONAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES. PREEG NOTED THAT THE POSITIVE FINDING BY TREASURY

COULD BE REVIEWED AT ANY TIME IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WERE FORTHCOMING AND URGED SERAFINI TO CONSIDER HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED. HE ADDED THAT THE USG HOPED THAT PRESENT MTN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PRODUCE A CODE ON SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILING WHICH WOULD HELP DEAL WITH FUTURE PROBLEMS OF THIS NATURE BETWEEN US. LENG THEN SUGGESTED THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS A FURTHER EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES TO RECONSIDER THE FACTS IN THE CASE. HE AGREED THAT EC SIDE NEEDED TO CONSIDER HOW IT COULD BEST MEET THE US NEED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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